door to a higher pitch. The space taken up by stairs and porches, is far greater than that of the building; because every side would be quite sufficient for the entrance of any temple. The inside is habitable, but not comfortable. The saloon exhibits the finest proportions, as well as the rooms, but they would hardly suffice for the wants of a noble family during a summer residence. On the other hand, every side presents itself from all parts of the adjoining country in a most magnificent manner. The diversity, with which the whole main building, as well as the projecting columns, move before the eyes of the beholder is very great—and thus the object of the owner has been perfectly attained, who wished to leave behind a great entail of property, as well as a tangible monument of his wealth. And alike as the building is perceived from all parts of the country in all its magnificence—the view therefrom is also most pleasing. We perceive the course of the Bacchiglione, the vessels from Verona, down towards the Brenta.

Padua, 27th Sept. 1786. At last I have acquired the work of *Palladio*, although not the original, which I had seen in Vicenza, with wooden engravings, but an accurate copy, or rather a *fac simile*, edited by an excellent man, the late English Consul *Smith* at Venice. This we must leave to the English, that they have known long ago how to appreciate the worthy, and that they spread it in a noble way.*

On account of this purchase, I stepped in to a bookshop, which, in Italy, have a particular appearance. The books, stitched, are deposited around the place, and you find the whole day good company. Whoever of clergymen, landed gentry or artists is anyhow connected with literature, is constantly about the place. You ask for a book, open it, gaze on, and amuse yourself as it may come. Thus I found about half a dozen together, all of whom, when I asked for Palladio, became attentive to me. While the master of the shop was looking for the book, they praised it, and informed me about the original and the copy; they were perfectly acquainted with the work and the merit of the author. As they took me for an architect, they approved my resorting especially to the works of this master—who availed more for use and practice, than even Vitruvius, as he had thoroughly studied the ancients and antiquity, and endeavoured to bring them nearer to our present wants.

Venice, 8th Oct. 1786. In the completed works of *Palladio*, especially the churches, I have found somethings blameable aside the most magnificent. As I was thus considering within myself, in how far I was right or wrong towards such an extraordinary man—it was as if he stood close to me, saying: "this and that I have made against my will, but still did it—because I could not, under given circumstances, near my highest idea, in any other way."—It appears, the more I think of it, that he, in considering the height and width of a church already existing, or an ancient house, to which he had to erect new fronts—merely thought: "How can you give to these spaces the greatest possible form? In the detail, you will be obliged, on account of unavoidable impediments, to contort or cobble somehow or other; here and there some incongruity will arise—this may; still the whole will exhibit a grand style and you will rejoice at your work."—And thus, he has carried the greatest images, as they dwelled in his soul, even there, where they didn't quite tally—where, in the detail, he was obliged to knead and tether them.—The wing in the *Carita*, therefore, ought to be the more valuable to us, as the artist had his free will, and could follow unboundedly the impulses of his mind. If the convent had been completed, there would perhaps, not exist in the whole actual world, a more perfect work of architecture.

How he thought and worked, in fine, becomes to me the clearer, the more I read his works, and consider, how he treated antiquity; because he makes few words, but they are all weighty. The fourth book, which represents the ancient temples, is a true introduction to the viewing sense-fully the relics of antiquity. J. L——Y.

* The handsomest compliment ever paid to the higher endeavours of this country. No amount of bank stock would have [illegible] Goethe with such a good opinion.—Transl.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

The ceremony of consecrating the Grand Junction Railway Church, at Crewe, took place on Thursday week. It is a cruciform structure, has a tower, and is built of Newcastle blue brick. It is capable of accommodating 700 persons.——The last brick in the arching of the gigantic tunnel through the Calton Hill, Edinburgh, was laid yesterday week. It is 400 yards long, 26 feet high and 26 feet in width. With the exception of about 40 yards at the east end, it is entirely through rock. ——We have on more than one occasion referred to the proposed bridge over the Severn, and the proposed tunnel under it. In reply to an application on the subject, made by Capt. F. Berkeley, M.P., the Lords of the Admiralty addressed to him the following letter:—

"Admiralty, Dec. 13, 1845.

Sir,—Having laid before my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty your letter of the 11th inst., I am commanded to acquaint you in reply, that you may be assured that their lordships will never sanction a bridge at Hock Crib, or over any part of the Severn which shall be detrimental to its free navigation. No plan for a tunnel has yet been laid before them, but whenever it comes, the due preservation of the bed of the river will be their lordships' first consideration.—I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

W. C. B. Hamilton.

——The sum of 2,350*l.* has been subscribed by the clergy alone for the restoration of Llandaff Cathedral, the bishop of the diocese having given 500*l.*, and the bishop of Winchester, 100*l.*——It is intended to erect a statue of Sir Charles Morgan, Bart., in the new market-place at Newport. The subscription list for this object is filling rapidly.——Chester Cathedral, which has been for some time closed for restoration and improvements, was re-opened last Sunday.——Notice has been given to the committee of the present Exchange at Manchester, by the projectors of the Royal Exchange there, that they shall not be in condition to apply to Parliament for a bill in the next session; and they, consequently, relinquish the contract for the purchase of the Exchange buildings. The proposed enlargement of the existing building will now be proceeded with.——A new church is about to be erected at Woolwich, after a design by Mr. Gwilt. It is to be constructed in the Byzantine style of architecture, and capable of accommodating 1,000 persons; the cost of its erection, including every incidental expenditure, will not exceed 7,000*l.* ——*The John o' Groat Journal* states that no less a sum than 70,000*l.* is to be expended in improvements on Dunrobin Castle.——A new lunatic asylum for the county of Essex is in contemplation. It is supposed that Chelmsford will be selected as the *locale*.——At Wisbeach it is intended to erect a museum in the garden abutting on the churchyard, lately the property of Dr. Hardwicke. The expence will be about 2,500*l.*, and the greater portion is already raised in shares of 25*l.* each. Part of the building is to be occupied by the Wisbeach Literary Society.——From 600 to 800 men, artificers and labourers, have been daily at work during the past year, in the construction of the new steam basin at Portsmouth. The south wall is in the most forward state, a large portion of it being nearly completed. A long line of the west wall has also made considerable progress; the walls are of the most substantial formation, their entire facing is of huge granite blocks. The contractor is Mr. Peter Rolt.——Stanwix church, near Carlisle, narrowly escaped destruction by fire last Sunday week. The accident originated in the over-heating of a flue. The furniture of the church has sustained much damage; most fortunately the painted window escaped with little or no injury. —— The Martello towers of Jersey are undergoing repair and improvement. They are to be rendered habitable, and the loop-holes, which throughout the island are too wide, are to be narrowed. A new iron ventilating apparatus is also being erected upon the summit of each. ——The river Severn has been greatly improved during the last two years by dredging, and by the erection of weirs and locks. Upwards of 200,000 tons of marl, rock, gravel, and soil have already been raised from the bed of the river by Messrs. Grissell and Peto's dredging machine alone, besides what has been removed by another contractor. At Gloucester it has been necessary to remove the entire foundation of one of the piers of the old bridge, and in the course of this operation some curious relics of ancient coins have been discovered.

REMOVAL OF ST. BENET'S FINK.

Sir,—I perceive that you have been addressed on the subject of St. Benet Fink Church by Messrs. Oak and Stone, whose high reputation I much respect; but their suggestion "to build the church up again in its original form" may, perhaps, bear some comment, and as I have recently made accurate drawings of the church in order to preserve its memory, I can form some idea of its fitness for re-erection.

Nothing of Wren's can be lost without regret. All his works evince the most masterly construction, much artistic merit, and generally, though not always, an economical application of circumstances and materials. The church in question, though not one of his best, is a good specimen of the latter excellence, being remarkable for a skilful adaption of form to the peculiarity of a limited site, adjoining the rounded corner of a street. The plan is an elliptical decagon, decorated inside with six columns of the composite order, standing at a distance of about twelve feet from the walls, so as to form an aisle of that width all round the church. Each column bears an enriched entablature extending from it to the outer wall, and upon these are turned semicircular arched vaults over the aisles, presenting moulded archivolts towards the centre portion of the church; these are surmounted by an elliptical enriched cornice, forming the base of an elliptical dome, upon which dome, I believe, a lantern light was originally placed, but has not been in existence for many years. The windows are large semi-circular headed, and internally very ugly, from their crude unadorned character. There is a small quantity of good oak carving in the style of Wren's time. The pulpit carving is bad, and of later date. The exterior of the church requires no particular description; it has Wren's usual accompaniments of architraves, cornices, festoons, &c., and much external effect could not be given to such an ungainly form as an elliptical elevation. The principle artistic excellence in this church I deem to be the judicious introduction of columns and arches into the interior. Wren is distinguished for a masterly power in this respect, as displayed in nearly all his churches; and the elegance, variety, and chiaro-scuro resulting from it, have gone far to confer on his memory that high honour of which he was so eminently worthy.

Notwithstanding this, I think the rebuilding the church according to its present design, would be bad taste, and questionable economy. It was adapted, as I have said, to a peculiar site, and you, Sir, well know that the quality of fitness, or the suitableness of a work of art to its circumstances, is a chief excellence in design. Now, if any person intending to erect a new building, chose to purchase the columns or other materials, and skilfully to apply them to a new design, suitable for his new purpose, he might do it without departing from the genuine spirit in which our revered Sir Christopher wurked. I avoid all discussion upon the subject of Wren's churches being appropriate for the present day, merely concluding with the remark, that there is a fashion in architecture as in other things, and that it is generally dependent upon the religious and political character of the times.

I am, Sir, &c., Edwin Nash.

Moorgate-street, Dec. 29th, 1845.

Recipe for making Tracing Paper.—The editor of the *Mechanics' Magazine* gives the following recipe for producing a tracing paper "that leaves nothing to be desired." Mix six parts (by weight) of spirits of turpentine, one of rosin, and one of boiled nut oil, and lay on with a brush or sponge.

The Nelson Monument.—The Woods and Forests have at last determined on completing this work; and Mr. Watson, Mr. Woodington, Mr. Carew, and Mr. Ternouth are appointed to execute the four *bassi relievi*. Mr. Lough is to do the four lions at the foot.

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